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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/930,030	08/14/2001	Claude R. Gauthier	03226/106001;P6086	1932

22511 7590 04/04/2003

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EXAMINER

TRAN, ANH Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2819

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/930,030

Applicant(s)

GAUTHIER ET AL.

Examiner

Anh Q. Tran

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 August 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Compton (5,890,819).

Regarding claim 1, Compton shows an apparatus (Fig. 1) for reducing a magnitude of a rate of current change of an integrated circuit, comprising:

A control stage (28) that generates a control signal dependent on whether power consumption by the integrated circuit needs to be reduced; and

A counter stage (20, 18, 16, 50, & 58) that inputs the control signal and generated a plurality of sequential signals to a plurality of transistors (42-1 to 42-n), wherein the plurality of transistors source current from a power supply (14).

Regarding claim 2, Compton shows the counter stage sequentially disables the plurality of transistors to cause a gradual reduction in an amount of current source from the power supply.

Regarding claim 3, Compton shows the counter stage enables the plurality of transistors when power consumption by the integrated circuit does not need to be reduced.

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Regarding claim 4, Compton shows the plurality of transistors are each one selected from group consisting of a n-type transistor.

Regarding claim 5, Compton shows a circuit for reducing a rate of current change of a microprocessor, comprising:

A control stage (22, 24, 26, 28) that is connected to a power terminal (150) and a ground terminal (inherent), wherein the control stage generates a control signal (output 164); and

counter stage (20, 18, 16, 50, & 58) that inputs the control signal and a clock signal (DATA CLK), wherein the counter stage generates a first signal to a gate terminal of a first transistor (42-1).

Regarding claim 6, Compton shows the first transistor (42-1) has a terminal connected to power (150) and another terminal connected to ground, and wherein the first transistor sources current from power to ground.

The limitations of claims 7-10 are rejected as above with each different transistors (42-2 to 42-n).

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Thompson et al (6,445,259) discloses an apparatus for controlling the current flow having a control circuit couple to the voltage source.

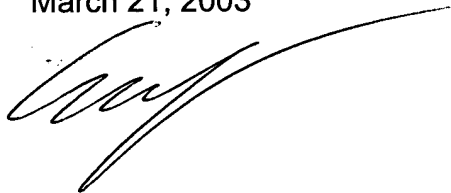
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anh Q. Tran whose telephone number is 703-306-4507. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (7:00-5:30) Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Tokar can be reached on 703-305-3493. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7724 for regular communications and 703-308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Anh Tran
March 21, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Anh Tran', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.